

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

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SUBJECT: REINSTITUTION OF TSS PROGRAM IN GDR

REF: STATE 291375

1. ECON/COMM OFFICER CALLED ON MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE (RIEDRICH) DECEMBER 8 AS THE FIRST STEP IN THE REINSTITUTION OF TSS PROGRAM IN THE GDR. GIST OF EMBOFF'S PRESENTATION WAS THAT SCERETARY RICHARDSON HAD RAISED TSS PROGRAM WITH DR. BEIL IN WASHINGTON AND WE WERE PLEASED THAT GDR IS APPARENTLY RECEPTIVE TO REINSTITUTION OF PROGRAM. WE ARE THINKING IN TERMS OF A TSS IN IRRIGATION FOR OCTOBER 1977 AND PLAN TO MAKE SUCH A PROPOSAL TO THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY NEXT WEEK AT A MEETING THAT IS ALREADY SCHEDULED (DECEMBER 14). US WOULD APPRECIATE FOREIGN TRADE MINISTRY'S LETTING SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY MINISTRY KNOW OF UNDERSTANDING REACHED IN WASHINGTON.

2. FRIEDRICH REPLIED THAT US SEMINARS HAD BEEN DISCUSSED IN WASHINGTON AS WELL AS GDR "TECHNICAL DAYS." THE GDR IS THINKING IN TERMS OF "TECHNICAL DAYS" IN THE UNITED STATES IN THE FIRST HALF OF 1978 CONSISTING OF PROGRAMS IN 6-8 AREAS, FOR WHICH THE GDR HOPES TO ENLIST THE INTEREST AND ASSISTANCE OF THE US-GDR TRADE COMMITTEE. FRIEDRICH CONTINUED
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THAT GDR CAPACITY TO IMPORT IS LIMITED BY WHAT IT CAN

EXPORT. NOT LITERALLY, BECAUSE THE GDR BORROWS,
TOO; BUT IT IS A MATTER OF SOME POLICY PRIORITY IN
THE GDR THAT THE IMBALANCE NOT GROW TOO LARGE.
EXISTING BARRIERS TO GDR EXPORTS TO THE US THEREFORE TEND
TO EXERT A BRAKING INFLUENCE ON GDR CAPACITY TO
BUY WHAT THE US OFFERS FOR SALE. TURNING TO EMBOFF'S
PROPOSAL, FRIEDRICH ASKED HOW THE UNITED STATES HAD
SETTLED ON IRRIGATION AS A THEME. EMBOFF SAID OUR
STUDY OF THE PLAN DIRECTIVES AND VARIOUS PUBLIC
STATEMENTS SUGGEST TO US THE GDR HAS SET A HIGH PRIORITY
ON REDUCING THE DEPENDENCE OF ITS AGRICULTURE ON
WEATHER. EMBOFF SAID WE HAD PREVIOUSLY SOLICITED AND
WOULD CONTINUE TO WELCOME GDR SUGGESTIONS ON TRADE
PROMOTION THEMES; AND IF IRRIGATION WOULD NOT BE OF INTEREST,
WE WOULD WELCOME AN EARLY INDICATION THAT THAT IS THE CASE.

3. COMMENT: EMBASSY AGREES WITH REASONING
AND COMMENTS PROVIDED IN REFTEL RE TIMING AND
PREPARATION OF TSS. EMBASSY IS COGNIZANT OF THE NEED
TO MOVE QUICKLY, AND WE HOPE THE NEXT WEEKS WILL
BRING A FIRM INDICATION OF GDR READINESS TO ACCEPT
A TSS IN OCTOBER. POLANSKY

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